

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 7:30 PM

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP HALL 4618 COUNTY 416 & 20TH RD GLADSTONE MI 49837

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Tom Rymkos at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Kim Knauf-Wyckoff gave an opening prayer.

Roll Call: Present Supervisor, Tom Rymkos. Treasure, Kim Knauf-Wyckoff. Trustees, Theresa Chenier and Al Gareau. Absent: Patricia Beauchamp. 4 members meets the quorum requirement.

Motion to approve agenda with additions and changes made by Kim. Second Al G. Verbal vote: Kim YES Theresa YES Al YES Tom YES.. Motion passed.

Motion to approve January 10 2022 Board meeting minutes as presented made by Theresa. Second Al . Verbal vote: Kim YES Theresa YES Al YES Tom YES. Motion passed.

Treasurer, Knauf-Wyckoff presented members with copies of the current financial report with line item balances for review and discussion. \$700 from roads fund will be transferred to deferred comp fund. The Uppco account for street lights needs clarification. **Motion to accept Financial Report as amended made by Theresa. Second Al G. Verbal vote: Kim YES Theresa YES Al YES Tom YES. Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bob Barron

Fire Department Report by Justin Ledesma, Fire Chief. The department responded to 4 call outs. The main pumper truck needs repairs and the Brush truck needs to be replaced. A mutual agreement was made with Harris Township. Brampton Township requested Escanaba Township to be on stand while their truck is being repaired. Mr. Ledesma announced he is resigning from position of Fire Chief because he is relocating out of the area.

NEW BUSINESS: Patricia Beauchamp has resigned from position as Township Clerk. She served the community for 33 years. Linda Trombley-Robitaille position as Deputy Clerk became expired. **Motion was made by Kim Knauf-Wyckoff to appoint Theresa Chenier as Township Clerk and be added to bank signature cards. Also include removal of Patricia Beauchamp and Linda Trombley-Robitaille from bank signature cards. Second by Al Gareau. Verbal Vote: Kim YES Al YES Tom YES. Motion passed. Supervisor, Rymkos swore in Theresa Chenier as Clerk.** Theresa appointed Catherine Culliton as Deputy Clerk. Culliton needs to be added to bank signature cards. Kim Knauf-Wyckoff appointed Scott Knauf as Deputy Treasurer. Knauf needs to be added to the bank signature cards.

A verification of payment amount will be conducted concerning the Planning Commission members receiving additional pay for meetings attended that go beyond two hours. The

budget needs to include payment to Colleen Maki for Assessor duties. It appears she did not receive two payments this past year

Motion was made by Theresa C to appoint new contact persons for the deferred comp communications. Persons to contact will be Tom Rymkos, Supervisor and Theresa Chenier, Clerk. Second by Kim. Verbal Vote; Al G YES Tom YES Kim YES Theresa YES. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Supervisor Rymkos received a \$1560 estimate for 9 foot counter installation in the township office.

Supervisor Rymkos read two Resolutions aloud to the Board to take into consideration to become/or not, a Charter Township. Notice MCL 42.38 was published in the Escanaba Daily Press. After round table discussion a **motion to oppose becoming incorporated as a charter township was made by Al Gareau. Second by Kim. Verbal vote: Kim YES Theresa YES Al YES Tom YES. Motion passed to oppose becoming a charter township at this time.**

Planning Commission Chair, Dean VanLoon addressed the board with information on the Future Land Use Map. He noted the Planning Commission performed this task within accordance of the Master Plan wanting more residential areas. New township potential population growth is expected in the North East corner. Most of the area is currently Resource Production. The Planning Commission drafted a Future Land Use Map and approved through vote at the December 2021 meeting. The Board will then review and discuss for approval or denial. Notice will be published for public input. Al Gareau suggested this matter be tabled until next meeting to have time to review. All members are in favor of tabling. Al Gareau, Zoning Administrator requested Dean VanLoon to be Zoning Administrator helper. Mr. VanLoon is currently the Planning Commission Chair and sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Kim will check with the MTA for clarification if he can hold these multiple positions at the same time.

Theresa announced there is an MTA conference April 26,27,28 2022. Herself and Supervisor Rymkos showed interest to attend, possibly via webinar.

The Board held a discussion regarding property on Olivia Drive in the Lake Bluff that is centrally located and could house a fire hydrant providing a source of fire protection for 400 plus residents in the area. This also has the potential to be a potable water source.

Al Gareau made motion to purchase 2.2 acre lot on Lake Bluff for \$25000. Second by Kim. Verbal vote: Al G YES Tom R YES Kim YES Theresa Yes. Motion passed.

Barry King voiced concerns that the website should be kept more up to date. Is it possible to place meeting video on website?

Verso Grow being hauled into the residential areas of the township then spread on fields as fertilizer has been a concern by residents. The township attorney is reviewing.

Norman Fleury and Michelle Chenier were appointed to the Board of Review. Micelle Chenier has since resigned and Carla Beauchamp has accepted. March 14, 2022 Board of Review meeting is 9 am- 3 pm and March 15, 2022 3 pm to 9 pm. There may be an organizational meeting prior.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Fred Minor would like to see the Future Land Use Map changed. He is a land owner in the proposed area. Congratulated Theresa Chenier and expressed thanks to Pat Beauchamp for all her years of service.

Bob Barron told the Board that letters were received and the solar contract has been cancelled. He feels Verso Grow does not need to be a concern.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

Theresa Chenier is following up with looking into cemetery programs that are available. The MTA general appropriations Act needs to be completed. Theresa Chenier is also planning to attend educational classes for clerk position.

Liaison Report: The Planning Commission is looking for 2 members. Larry Klope and Frank Chenier gave a presentation with maps depicting soil depths in our township. The Planning Commission is continuing to work on a draft solar ordinance.

DELTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Bob Barron, Delta County Commissioner announced there will be a County meeting February 15, 2022 5:15 pm in the County Service Center. He expressed that he feels zoning is only needed in cities. There are district reapportionments of precincts occurring in our areas. Maps can be obtained from Delta County Clerk's office.

The Board paid bills.

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Kim at 10:18 pm. Second by Al Gareau. All members are in favor of adjournment. Motion passed.

The next meeting of the Escanaba Township Board is scheduled for March 14, 2022 7:30 pm at the Escanaba Township Hall 4618 County 416 20th Rd Gladstone, MI 49837 906-786-6200.

If you require assistance to attend a meeting contact Cathy at 906 280 6182.

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